



For Release: Wednesday, April 13, 2022

22-663-BOS

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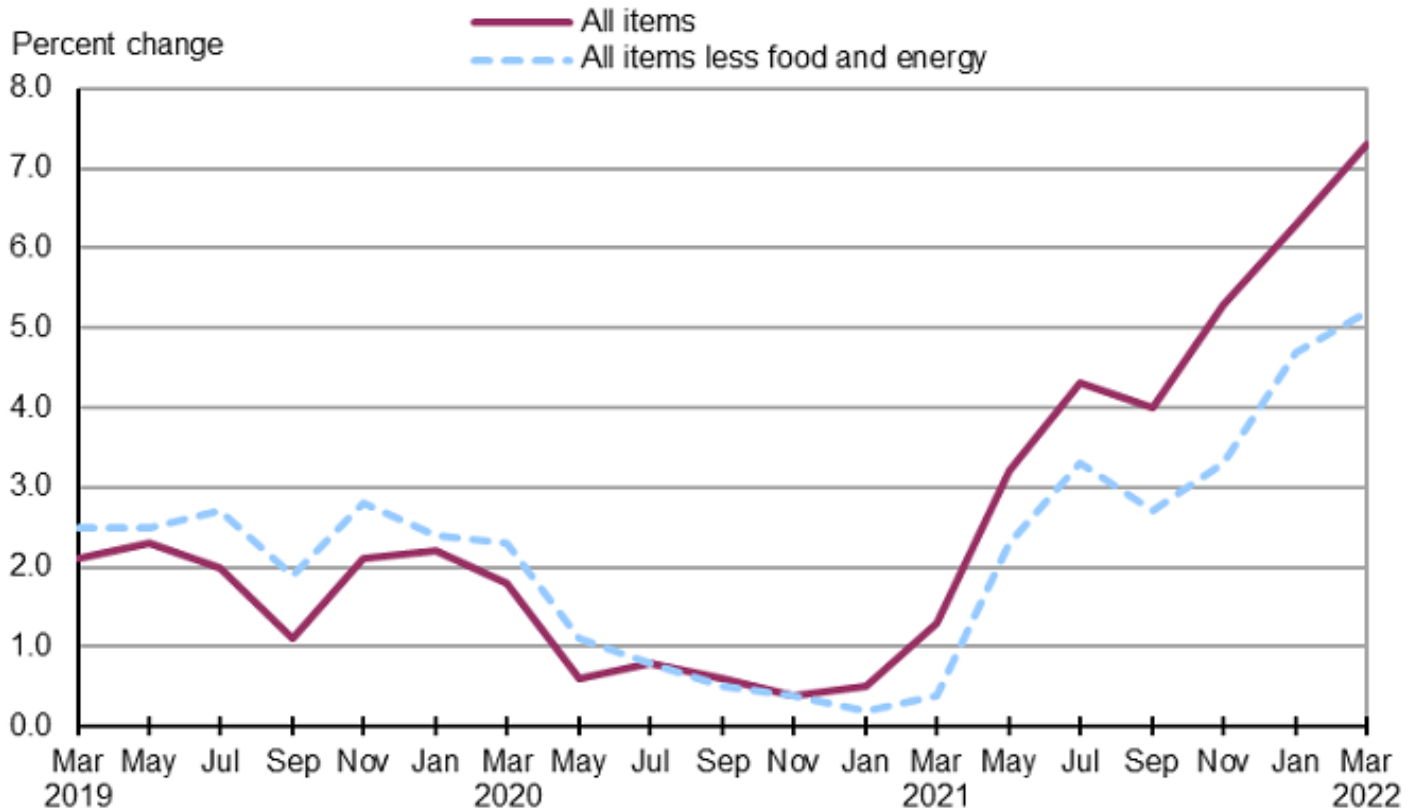
Consumer Price Index, Boston-Cambridge-Newton – March 2022

Area prices were up 1.9 percent over the past two months, up 7.3 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Boston area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.9 percent for the two months ending in March 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner William J. Sibley noted that the March increase was influenced by higher prices for energy with gasoline being a big component of the energy increase. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 7.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) This was the largest annual increase recorded in the Boston area since January 1989. The index for all items less food and energy rose 5.2 percent over the year. Energy prices jumped 36.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. Food prices rose 7.1 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH, March 2019–March 2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 1.8 percent for the two months ending in March. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home increased 1.7 percent, and prices for food away from home advanced 1.8 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 7.1 percent. Prices for food at home increased 6.1 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 8.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index jumped 14.8 percent for the two months ending in March. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (24.5 percent). This was the largest 2-month advance in the area since June 2009 (+29.6 percent). Prices for natural gas service increased 8.1 percent, while prices for electricity edged up 0.4 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 36.9 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (53.6 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service advanced 27.0 percent, and prices for electricity jumped 14.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.8 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (7.9 percent) and household furnishings and operations (2.9 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 5.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.1 percent), used cars and trucks (36.7 percent) and household furnishings and operations (9.9 percent).

The Consumer Price Index for May 2022 is scheduled to be released on Friday, June 10, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**











































The Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Mass.-N.H. Core Based Statistical Area covered in this release is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk Counties in Massachusetts; Rockingham, Strafford Counties in New Hampshire.

Information from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Telecommunications Relay Service: 7-1-1.

Table A. Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted















Month	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	1.1	2.8	0.5	2.5	0.6	2.2	0.7	0.5	1.6	6.3
March	0.9	3.6	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.8	0.9	1.3	1.9	7.3
May.....	0.0	3.2	0.2	2.3	-1.0	0.6	0.8	3.2		
July	0.3	3.4	0.0	2.0	0.2	0.8	1.2	4.3		
September.....	1.2	3.3	0.2	1.1	0.1	0.6	-0.1	4.0		
November.....	-0.4	3.2	0.7	2.1	0.4	0.4	1.7	5.3		

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Ma.-N.H. (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Mar. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022
All items		304.634		310.311	7.3	1.9	
All items (1967 = 100)		885.427		901.926			
Food and beverages		300.803		305.791	6.7	1.7	
Food		304.158		309.522	7.1	1.8	
Food at home		274.441	275.322	279.213	6.1	1.7	1.4
Cereal and bakery products		335.316		338.042	11.2	0.8	
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs		291.535		310.171	9.7	6.4	
Dairy and related products		307.660		319.740	10.9	3.9	
Fruits and vegetables		348.349		357.581	4.0	2.7	
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)		170.778		168.060	-1.5	-1.6	
Other food at home		212.911		209.243	3.6	-1.7	
Food away from home		356.507		362.937	8.7	1.8	
Alcoholic beverages		268.338		268.857	0.7	0.2	
Housing		319.796		323.726	6.3	1.2	
Shelter		374.094	373.029	375.114	4.1	0.3	0.6
Rent of primary residence(2)		383.389	383.669	385.422	2.6	0.5	0.5
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)(3)(4)		399.853	401.577	402.554	3.6	0.7	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)(3)(4)		399.853	401.577	402.554	3.6	0.7	0.2
Fuels and utilities		358.687		385.343	22.5	7.4	
Household energy		306.087	311.791	332.000	26.0	8.5	6.5
Energy services(2)		325.196	327.180	334.893	18.9	3.0	2.4
Electricity(2)		359.213	362.483	360.829	14.5	0.4	-0.5
Utility (piped) gas service(2)		251.671	251.671	272.127	27.0	8.1	8.1
Household furnishings and operations		142.242		146.320	9.9	2.9	
Apparel		132.805		143.254	12.6	7.9	
Transportation		222.369		234.578	20.7	5.5	
Private transportation		233.547		245.026	21.4	4.9	
New and used motor vehicles(5)		135.405		135.327	20.8	-0.1	
New Vehicles(1)		233.835		230.588	8.1	-1.4	
Used cars and trucks(1)		490.035		483.410	36.7	-1.4	
Motor fuel		293.865	304.988	366.194	53.7	24.6	20.1
Gasoline (all types)		290.790	301.780	362.173	53.6	24.5	20.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(6)		282.623	293.675	353.109	54.2	24.9	20.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(6)(7)		310.998	320.775	382.582	54.6	23.0	19.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(6)		301.359	310.154	367.482	49.1	21.9	18.5
Motor vehicle insurance(1)							
Medical care		714.612		723.561	3.8	1.3	
Recreation(5)		117.206		117.281	2.0	0.1	
Education and communication(5)		176.258		175.660	0.9	-0.3	
Tuition, other fees, and child care(1)		1,433.865		1,433.865	0.8	0.0	
Other goods and services		556.021		563.943	8.0	1.4	
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		216.661		224.796	13.2	3.8	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Cambridge-Newton, Ma.-N.H. (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Mar. 2022	Mar. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022
Commodities less food and beverages		172.623		181.196	17.8	5.0	
Nondurables less food and beverages...		214.905		238.609	22.7	11.0	
Durables		129.797		129.251	13.9	-0.4	
Services		384.053		387.526	4.5	0.9	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		279.780		287.607	9.2	2.8	
All items less medical care		288.953		294.493	7.6	1.9	
Commodities less food		176.604		185.061	16.9	4.8	
Nondurables		256.708		271.758	13.6	5.9	
Nondurables less food		217.785		240.012	20.7	10.2	
Services less rent of shelter(3)		412.668		419.615	4.9	1.7	
Services less medical care services		360.203		363.235	4.6	0.8	
Energy		298.633	306.464	342.958	36.9	14.8	11.9
All items less energy		310.180		313.115	5.4	0.9	
All items less food and energy		312.346		314.943	5.2	0.8	

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a January 1978=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a November 1982=100 base.

(4) This index series underwent a change in composition in January 2010. The expenditure class now includes weight from secondary residences, and has been re-titled "Owners' equivalent rent of residences." The item stratum "Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence" excludes secondary residences.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(6) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(7) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.